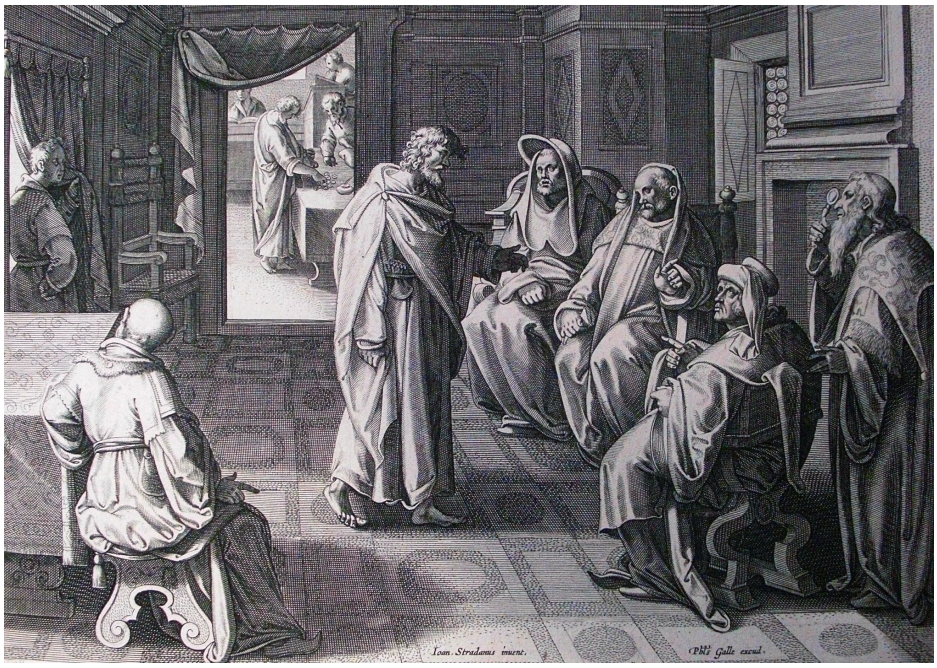
T. THE LAST SUPPER. MARK 14:10-31

All sorts of speculation has taken place about Judas and his motives in betraying Jesus (14:10-11). It may be that he was acting in good faith as Jesus's emissary, and it was only subsequently that opprobrium was attached to him by Peter and his circle.

Just as the ass is there waiting for the entry into the city, so everything is ready waiting for Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples (14:12-25). Mark wants to make the point that Jesus's suffering was not something rather unfortunate that just happened. God planned it for a purpose. Jesus adapted the symbolism of the Passover. When he said, "This is my body", he re-called the slaughter of the Passover lamb, which made it possible for the Israelites to be spared when the destroying angel attacked Egypt at the Exodus. Jesus is comparing himself to this lamb. "Covenant" means "agreement". The original agreement was sealed by the blood of the sacrifice which had to be put on the door-post. Jesus' death became the Christian equivalent: he had to die so that his people could be liberated from the clutches of the Devil and enter into the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist is, in fact, the Christian Passover.

In response to Peter's promise of enduring faithfulness (14:26-31) Jesus quotes from *Zecharaiah* 13:7. Even his abandonment by his friends is according to God's plan. The fulfillment of Jesus' prediction concerning Peter can be read in 14:66-72.



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